



Kyabram Catholic Parish

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620
Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December 2022



Readings for this week:
Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



Readings for next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23



Liturgy Jottings

Mystery of Advent

Within our celebration of the days of Advent we contemplate the twofold character of the season but also, almost hidden from our sight, are deeper elements of the Advent-Christmas sequence. Three Christian mysteries are present in our liturgies: Incarnation of the Word made flesh, Resurrection of the Lord from the dead and the Redemption of believers to eternal life. The Annunciations of the birth of Jesus are made to Joseph (Matt 1:18-24, Fourth Sunday A) and to Mary (Luke 1:26-38, 20 December). The word of God is made flesh and dwells among us. The liturgies contain several allusions to Easter themes of new light, resurrection, new life, the conquering of sin and death. Finally we are redeemed and called to eternal life. These are evident in the Gospel Acclamations and Prefaces of Advent.

Looking at the Readings

The fourth Sunday of Advent and the fourth week of Advent focus on the birth of Christ and the leading events. The Gospel of today, in cycle A the year of Matthew, has the Annunciation of the birth of the Lord to Joseph. An unnamed angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The Gospels of Cycle B & C are from Luke with the Annunciation to Mary and the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. This event operates on two levels. The first level nothing changes. Joseph takes his fiancée (betrothed) home and continues to work. There is no disruption in the family or in the village or countryside and people move on as usual.

On the second level all is changed. Mary is with child by the power of the Holy Spirit and her child is Jesus, the one who saves; Emmanuel God-is-with-us. The long wait for the Messiah is over. The lives of Mary and Joseph will be changed forever. Faith and trust are required by both and they respond. The drama unfolds as we have seen in many plays and heard proclaimed in scripture throughout salvation history and our liturgies. God the Son became human fulfilling the Word of the ancient prophets and the Will of the Father (Eucharistic Prayer II).

Quote of the Week

Brothers and sisters, in prayer there is always a question of patience, always, of supporting the wait. Now we are in the time of Advent, a time that is typically of expectation; of expectation of Christmas. We are in waiting. This is clear to see. But all our life is also in waiting. And prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer." *Pope Francis, 9 Dec 2020*

Prayer for the Week

Almighty and all loving God,
Our redemption is drawing near,
the ancient hope of nations is on his way;
the promised resurrection of the dead is at hand,
the glory of your blessed ones already shines forth.
And so, with all the angels we give you glory
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Preface of fifth Sunday of Advent, Ambrosian Rite

On The Lighter Side

I overheard a mother say that she spied her nine year old son's wish list for Christmas. On the top was a tuxedo. Her companions were quick with advice in sourcing the garment but her reason to share the event was: "Why a tuxedo?" Perhaps this adds to the mystery of Christmas.





CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we are invited to donate toys, toiletries, and non-perishable groceries for distribution locally by St Vincent de Paul.

Please leave your donation under the Christmas tree in the church. Also, envelopes are also available on the Christmas tree for cash donations or gift cards. There will be a box available to put these in.

St Vincent de Paul will collect all items after Sunday Mass on 18th December. Thank You for your generosity.

ST VINNIES LEAVING COLLECTION-CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be a leaving collection for St Vinnies at Christmas Eve mass.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

Presider:

We invite.....to light the fourth candle, which is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God’s Word into our world.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah when he proclaimed ‘The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God is with us.’

(First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament to give us the strength to live according to the Good News you revealed.

(Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come in glory in the fullness of time because you are the Christ the one who has saved his people from their sins. (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen**

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Due to the mosquito concerns, Christmas Eve Mass will be held in *the Brigidine Centre*, next to presbytery. 6.00pm for Carols and 6.30pm for mass. Chairs will be provided.

CUPPA AFTER MASS ROSTER

A new roster is being drawn up for next year for the monthly cuppa after mass on second Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Minimal preparation is required for this most important ministry. There is a clipboard at the back of the church to register your name and state your preferences.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to Carl Cabaraban and Mary D’Augello as a newly joined for **the Parish Pastoral Council**. And John Zobec for **the Parish Finance Committee**. Thank you for your willingness and support. We keep you in our prayers.

POSITION VACANT

PARISH ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

St. Augustine Parish, Kyabram

Permanent part-time position: 14 hours per week

We are looking for a highly motivated individual for this diverse role.

Duties include;

- Office support to the Parish Priest.
- Reception and general administrative functions.
- Bookkeeping, secretarial and office management.
- Preparation of parish bulletin.
- Maintaining accurate and secure records including on the parish website.
- Administration of baptisms, funerals and weddings.
- Management of accounts payable and receivable and banking.
- Record keeping and accounting to Balance Sheet level.
- Other duties commensurate with your skills and experience assigned by the Parish Priest from time to time.

To succeed in the role, you will need;

- Excellent communication skills.
- Developed organizational skills.
- Ability to maintain a high level of integrity, confidentiality and discretion.
- Ability to work to priorities and timeframes with attention to detail in an environment of interruptions.
- Sound knowledge of basic financial accounting packages and Microsoft Office suite of products.
- Knowledge of Child Safety Standards and procedures.
- An understanding of the Catholic faith and a willingness to work within the Catholic ethos.
- Initiative and a capacity to work with a minimum of supervision.

Submit applications and resume to kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Enquiries to Fr. John Paul Pasala, Parish Priest: 03 5852 1026.

Alana Brennan: 0427 658 563; Wayne Mulcahy: 0402 358 221.

Applications close at 5:00 pm on 20/01/2023.

MASS TIMES & ROSTERS

NEXT WEEKENDS

Sunday 18th December at 8.30am

Commentator – V fox
Lector –M Carver
Special Minister – M Di Petta

Saturday 24th December at 6pm

Commentator – W Mulcahy
Lector – M Radanov
Special Minister- L Busch

Sunday 25th December at 8.30am:

Commentator –N Watt
Lector – S Carroll
Special Minister- A Brunt

BULLETIN ADVERTISING

We are once again considering if any business would be interested in advertising in our Parish bulletin. The cost would be around \$500 per year, and this would give 46 weekends of advertising in the bulletin. If you would like any further details, please talk to Fr. John or any member of the Finance Committee.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Philip Bowman, Ainsley Lane, Anne Dodd, Kady Mitchell-Treacy, Concetta Barbagallo,

Recently Deceased: Trevor Price, Julie Shaw, Margaret Evans.

Anniversaries: Thomas Bourke, Giuseppina Quattrocchi, Giuseppe Zobec.

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)



POSITIONS VACANT

A number of positions are currently Vacant on **Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council**, please consider helping out in these areas of need and be part of a team in forming the future of our Parish.

Please contact Fr. John Paul

Parish Priest

Fr John Paul Pasala
Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026
Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Parish Office email address:
kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Office website:
www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au
Principals

St Augustine's College
Jay Sutton – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary
Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala.,
Alana Brennan (Chairperson)
Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox, Mary D'Augello, Carl Cabaraban.
Brendon Lane, Finola Price,
Jackie Stockdale, Jay Sutton

Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala,
Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson),
James Harris (Deputy Chair)
John Zobec, Naomi Hehir, Mary Zobec.

Mass Times

Kyabram
Week Day Masses (Tuesday and Thursday): see Diary Dates
Saturday (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month): 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am

Tongala

First Sunday of month 11.30am

Merrigum

Third Sunday of month 12.00 noon

Reconciliation – Second Saturday of the month at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Aug's Church Kyabram.

Mass of Anointing is held the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in St Augustine's Church.

FORTNIGHT TIME TABLE

Mon 19 Dec -
Tues 20 Dec - Rosary 4:45pm, Liturgy of the word 5:00pm.
Wed 21 Dec -
Thurs 22 Dec - Mass 9:15am
Fri 23 Dec -
Weekend Masses
Sat 24 Dec –Carols at 6pm, Mass at 6.30pm (Brigidine Centre)
Sun 25 Dec - Mass 8:30am.

Mon 26 Dec
Tues 27 Dec – No Mass.
Wed 28 Dec -
Thurs 29 Dec - No Mass
Fri 30 Dec -
Weekend Masses
Sat 31 Dec - No Mass
Sun 01 Dec - Mass 8:30am (New year Mass)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We wish all the teachers, staff, students and families a safe and enjoyable break over the school holidays.

Parish Office hours will be limited during the Christmas/New Year period, so please contact the office with any bulletin notices or Anniversary names well in advance.

We congratulate Xavier Alford on his Baptism this weekend and Please keep his parents and godparents in your prayers and welcome him into our Parish Community.



CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with the Parish Child safety officer Finola Price on 03 58521310.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

Christmas Eve Mass-

We are calling for children to help with processing in with Father in bringing up the statues to build up the Christmas crib. Please see Alana Brennan before mass on Christmas Eve.

HELPERS NEEDED

Helpers are needed for both the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St. Augustine's. Clipboards are available at the back of the church if you can help in any way. We need special ministers, money collectors and ushers and setting up on Friday. Thank you for helping.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity; decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD CARES

While many people can assert that God exists, it is often a huge leap to be able to say with confidence that God cares about what we are going through. It is even a greater leap to be able to say that God actually cares enough to be with us in the complexity and challenges of our lives. Both the first reading from Isaiah and today's Gospel proclaim that God cares enough to be with us and that the living God often works in and through the most disturbing and surprising events. King Ahaz had given in to despair in the face of the imminent attack on Jerusalem by more powerful forces. Joseph was struggling to come to terms with Mary's pregnancy which was both disconcerting and unexpected. Both Ahaz and Joseph were led to recognise that God's presence was to be seen in the birth of a child whose very name – God with us – was a constant reminder not to lose heart in the God who loves us. As Paul begins the letter to the Romans, he reflects on the marvellous call that he has received to be an apostle. He sets the story of Jesus firmly within the saving history of God's dealings with the people of Israel, but this is not the end of the story. The God of surprises has made it clear to Paul that what happened in the birth of Jesus belongs to all humanity. In Jesus, God has come close to all peoples and Paul's mission is to preach this message to the nations.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

18 DECEMBER 2022

FIRST READING Isa 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 23:1-6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.